

Luke 13:1-5, "Repentance"

☞ Repent? What is that? Bundled up in the sinner's prayer is the idea of repentance, but we don't say the word anymore.

1. It was an extremely important word in Jesus' vocabulary.

- ✓ The first time Jesus appears in the New Testament, in the first Gospel, and the first instruction He gives, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near," Matthew 4:17. From then on, it's His most consistent message. In all times and every situation, His command has to repent. Jesus clarifies His job in Mark 2:17. The repentance Jesus teaches causes a party to break out in Heaven, Luke 15:10.

2. It was an extremely important word in John the Baptist's vocabulary.

- ✓ In Matthew 3:1-2 John is like a broken record when it comes to repentance. Notice John's job description in Matthew 3:3. Therefore, to be ready for Jesus; to be prepared to accept His salvation, we must repent.

3. It was an extremely important word for Jesus' disciples.

- ✓ He sent them out two by two and what did they say?, Mark 6:7 and 12. When Jesus ascends to Heaven and His apostles start preaching the Gospel, "Brothers, what should we do?," Acts 2:37, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God and be baptized Acts 2:38 and Acts 3:19. When Paul had repented and trusted Jesus, he went out as a missionary; and what did he preach?, see Acts 17:30; Acts 20:20-21.

4. But if you watch modern preaching on television, I would dare say that you will never hear the word, a cause for pause?

- ✓ What are they up to? Jesus teaches clearly that without repentance, we perish. God states His heart for humanity not to perish, 2nd Peter 3:9. In John 3:16, perish is the key word here. Wrapped up in believing in Jesus is repentance, without repentance there is no believing in Him.

5. What is repentance?

- ✓ Very literally it means to change direction. It means to turn from sin to Christ, but there is a problem, sinners can't quit sinning by themselves. Leopards can't repent of their spots! Anyone who sins is a slave to sin, a sinner isn't free to quit his master. A drowning person can't repent of drowning, but they can cry out for help and accept the help that is offered. One thing is true about drowning and about sin, you have to be convinced of it, you have to be convinced you cannot rescue yourself.
- ✓ Repentance is a confession of I'm turning but I am so consumed by sin that I have no power to turn, I'm quitting but I don't have the power to quit. Repentance is agreeing with God's diagnosis of your wretchedness and understanding that you can do nothing about it. A person drowning in sin cannot stop drowning, so they cry out for help! This is what repentance sounds like, Psalm 51:4, 10, 14 and Isaiah 6:5. This is what repentance looks like, Jonah 3:5, 9; Luke 5:8; Acts 16:30.

Repentance opens the door for the Savior to set you free.
